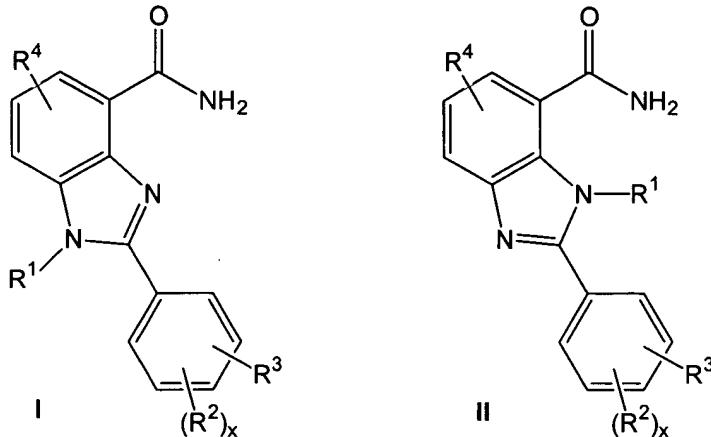


In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the Formula I or II



in which

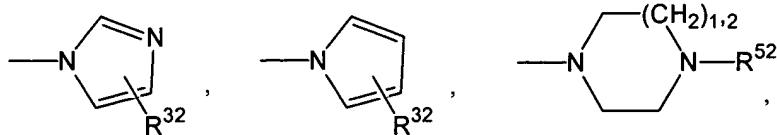
R¹ is hydrogen, or branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR¹¹ or a group R⁵, where R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

R² is hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃ CF₃, nitro, NHCOR²¹, NR²²R²³, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, NH₂, CN, a straight or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR²¹ or phenyl, it also being possible for the phenyl rings to be substituted by at most two radicals R²⁴, and R²¹ and R²², independently of one another, are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and R²³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and R²⁴ is OH, C₁-C₆-alkyl C₁-C₆-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro or NH₂, and

x may be 0, 1 or 2 and

R³ is -D-(F¹)_p-(E)_q-(F²)_r-G -D-(F¹)_p-(E)_q-(F²)_r-G, where p, q and r may not simultaneously be 0, or is -E-(D)_u-(F²)_s-(G)_v -E-(D)_u-(F²)_s-(G)_v, it also being

possible for the radical E to be substituted by one or two radicals A, and if v = 0, E is imidazole, pyrrole, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, or R³ is -O-(CH₂)_o-(CHR³¹)_m-(CH₂)_n-G,



or R³ is B, and

R³¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl and

R³² is hydrogen, -(CH₂)_o-(CHR³¹)_m-(CH₂)_n-G or -(CH₂)_p-G,

m and o independently of each other are 0, 1, or 2 and

n may be 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

R⁴ is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF₃, CN, NR⁴¹R⁴², NH-CO-R⁴³ or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where R⁴¹ and R⁴², independently of one another, are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl and

R⁴³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl or phenyl, and

D is S or θ Q, and

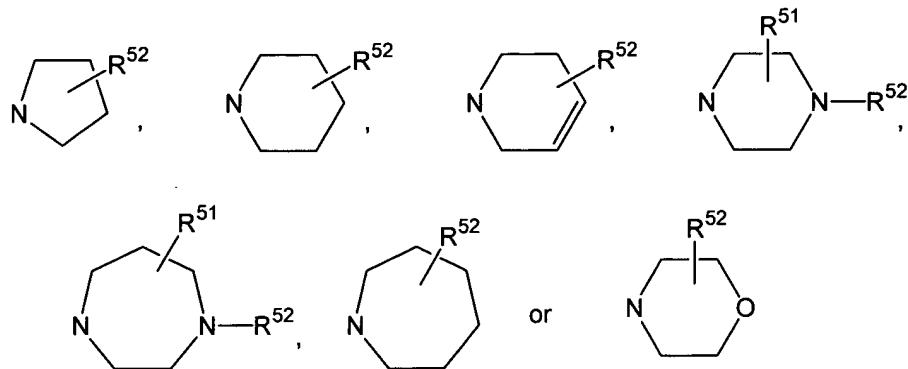
E is phenyl, imidazole, pyrrole, thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, furan, thiazole, isoxazole, pyrrolidine, piperidine or trihydroazepine, and

F¹ is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl group, and

F² is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl group, and

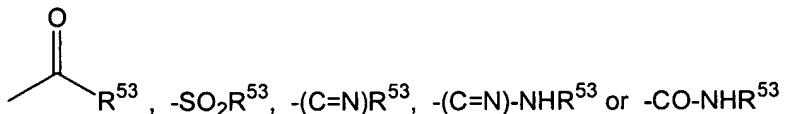
p may be 0 or 1,

q may be 0 or 1,
 r may be 0 or 1,
 s may be 0 or 1,
 u may be 0 or +1,
 v may be 0 or 1, and
 G may be $\text{NR}^{51}\text{R}^{52}$ or



and

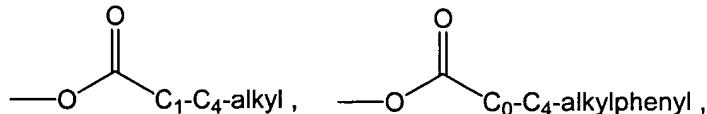
R^{51} is hydrogen or branched and unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl or $(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-K}$, and
 R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, COCH_3 , COCF_3 , phenyl,



in which

R^{53} may be branched or unbranched $\text{O-C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, phenyl or branched or unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkylphenyl, where in the case of R^{52} and R^{53} , independently of one another, one hydrogen of the $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, $\text{O-C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, it also being possible for

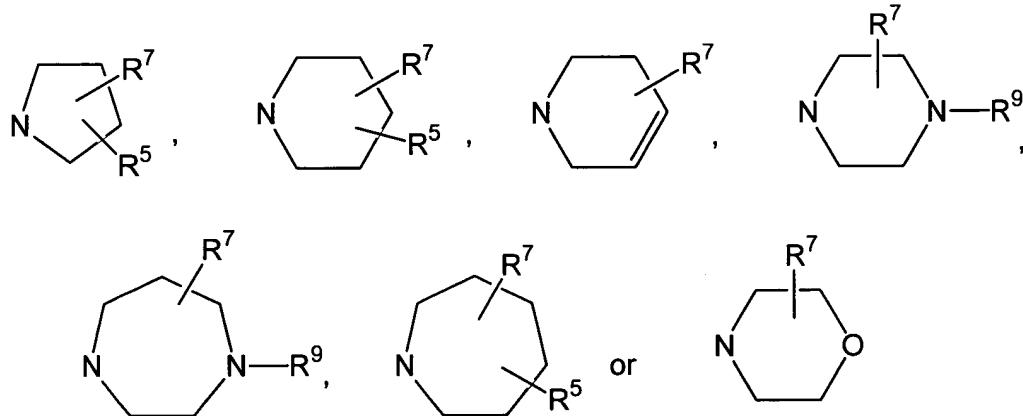
the carbocycles of the radicals R⁵² and R⁵³, independently of one another, to carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH, F, Cl, Br, + I, CF₃, N0₂ NO₂, NH₂, CN, COOH, COOC₁-C₄-alkyl, C₄-C₄-alkylarnino C₁-C₄-alkylarnino, CCl₃, C₄-C₄-dialkylarnino C₁-C₄-dialkylarnino, SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, SO₂phenyl, CONH₂, CONH-C₁-C₄-alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, NSO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, NSO₂phenyl, S-C₁-C₄-alkyl,



CHO, CH₂-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CH₂O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, -CH₂OH, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or

two radicals form a bridge -O-(CH₂)_{1,2}-O-,

B may be



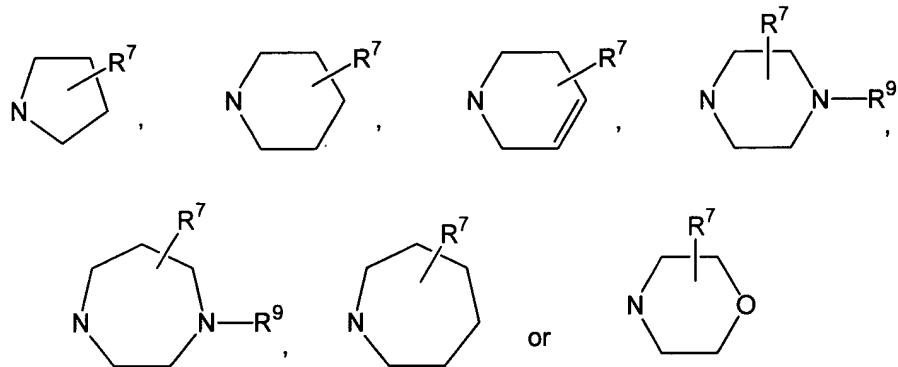
and

A may be hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, NH₂, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, CN or NH-CO-R³³, where R³³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and

t is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 and

K is phenyl, ~~which may carry at most two radicals~~, is NR^{k1}R^{k2} where R^{k1} and R^{k2} are as defined for R⁴¹ and R⁴² respectively, NH-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

R⁵ may be hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, NR⁷R⁹ and



and

- R⁷ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl or phenyl, it also being possible for the rings to be substituted by up to two radicals R⁷¹, and
- R⁷¹ is OH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro or NH₂, and
- R⁸ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, phenyl or ~~C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl~~ C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, it also being possible for the ring to be substituted by up to two radicals R⁸¹, and
- R⁸¹ is OH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro, or NH₂, and
- R⁹ is hydrogen, COCH₃, CO-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, COCF₃, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it being possible for one or two hydrogens of the C₁-C₆-alkyl radical to be substituted in each case by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: iodine, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched or unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, CN, CF₃ or SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or disasteriomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

- R¹ is hydrogen, branched and unbranched ~~C₁-C₆-alkyl~~ C₁-C₆-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR¹¹ or a group R⁵, where
- R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and
- R² is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CF₃, CN, NR²²R²³, NH-CO-R²¹, or OR²¹, where
- R²¹ and R²² are, independently of one another, is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

~~R₂₃~~ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and

R³ is -O-(CH₂)₀-(CHR³¹)_m-(CH₂)_n-G, where

R³¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH and or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

m and o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2, and

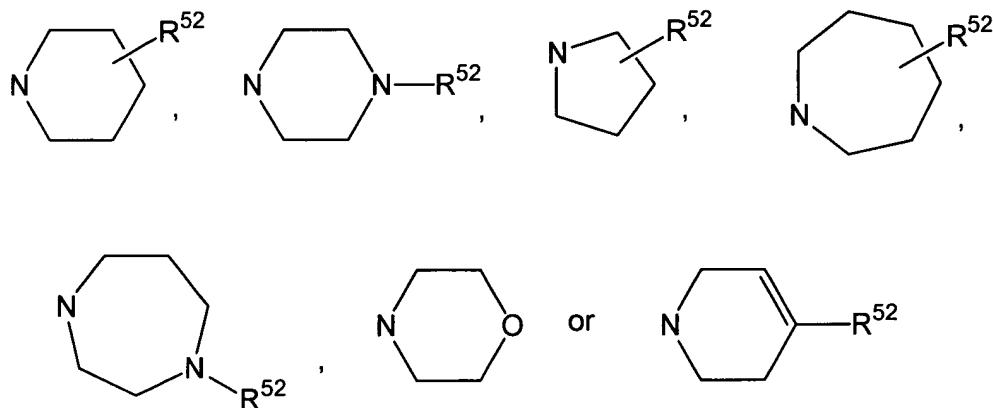
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R⁴ is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, NR⁴¹R⁴², NH-CO-R⁴³, or OR⁴¹, where

R⁴¹ and R⁴² are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

R⁴³ is C^t-C₄-alkyl C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and

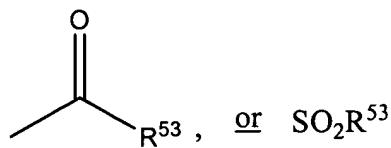
G is NR⁵¹R⁵² or one of the following radicals



where

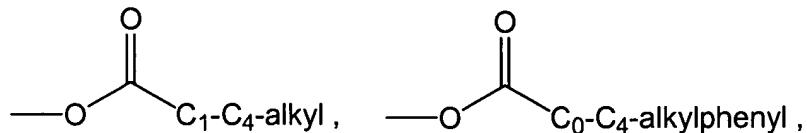
R⁵¹ is hydrogen and branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

R⁵² hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, phenyl,



in which

R^{53} is branched or unbranched $O-C_1-C_6\text{-alkyl}$, phenyl, branched or unbranched $C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl-phenyl}$, where one hydrogen in the $C_1-C_6\text{-alkyl}$ radical in R^{52} and R^{53} can, independently of one another, be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, $O-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, where the carbocycles of the R^{52} and R^{53} radicals may also, independently of one another, carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched $C_1-C_6\text{-alkyl}$, branched or unbranched $O-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, OH, F, Cl , Br, I , CF_3 , NO_2 , NO_2 , NH_2 , CN, COOH, $\text{COOC}_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, $C_1-C_4\text{-alkylamino}$, CCl_3 , $C_1-C_4\text{-dialkylamino}$, $\text{SO}_2-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, SO_2phenyl , CONH_2 , $\text{CONH-C}_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, CONHphenyl , $\text{CONH-C}_1-C_4\text{-alkyl-phenyl}$, $\text{NHSO}_2-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{NHSO}_2\text{phenyl}$, $S-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$,



CHO, $\text{CH}_2-O-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{CH}_2O-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl-phenyl}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{SO}-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{SO}-C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl-phenyl}$, SO_2NH_2 , or $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH-C}_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$

and two radicals form a bridge $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_{1,2}\text{-O}-$,

or the tautomeric form, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, the prodrugs thereof, and pharmacologically physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched $C_1-C_6\text{-alkyl}$, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5 , where

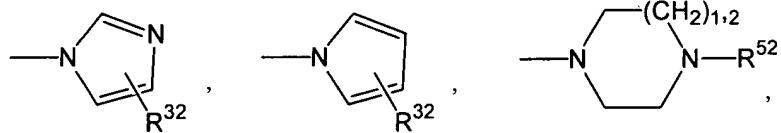
R^{11} is hydrogen or $C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CF₃, CN, NR²²R²³, NH-CO-R²¹, OR²¹, where

R^{21} and R^{22} independently of one another are is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl and

R^{23} ~~is hydrogen, C1-C4-alkyl or phenyl~~

R^3 is



and

R^{32} is hydrogen and or -(CH₂)_o-(CHR³¹)_m-(CH₂)_n-G, where R³¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH and or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

m, and o independently of one another are m 0, 1 or 2 and

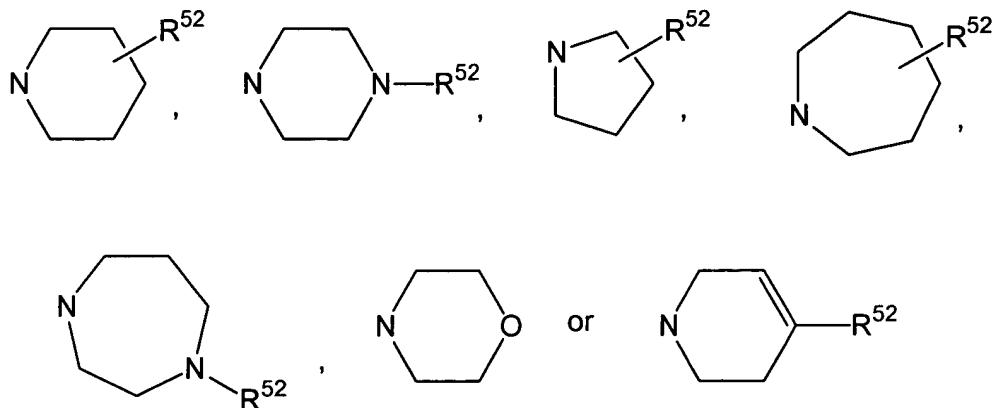
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, NR⁴¹R⁴², NH-CO-R⁴³, or OR⁴¹, where

R^{41} and R^{42} independently of one another are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl and

R^{43} is C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl, and

G is NR⁵¹R⁵² or one of the radicals below



where

R^{51} is hydrogen and or branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl and
 R^{52} is hydrogen, COCH₃, CO-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, COCF₃; or branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it being possible for one hydrogen of the C₁-C₆-alkyl radical to be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl and phenyl and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₄-alkyl, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl; and CN, SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl,
and the tautomeric forms, a possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, a the prodrugs thereof, or and pharmaceutically physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

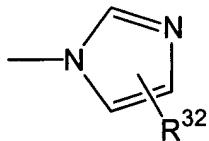
4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R² is in position 3 and R³ is in position 4 or R² is in position 4 and R³ is in position 3 relative to the benzimidazole ring.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R¹ and R⁴ are hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R² is hydrogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CN, NH₂, or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 where

(i) for R³ being



R³¹ R³² is hydrogen or -(CH₂)_w-G -(CH₂)_p-G, where

w p is 1 or 2 and

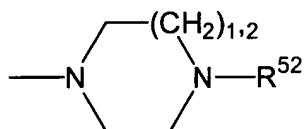
(ii) for R³ being



R³¹ R³² is hydrogen or -(CH₂)_p-G, where

p is 1 or 2 and

and (iii) for R³ being



where

R⁵² is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C₁-C₆-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of

the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₄-alkyl, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, CN, and SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R³ is -D-(F¹)_p-(E)_q-(F²)_r-G where D is O, F¹ F¹ is a C₁-C₄ carbon chain, p is 1, q is 0 and r is 0.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R⁵ is a 6-membered ring and R⁵² is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

10. (Previously Presented) A drug comprising besides conventional vehicles and ancillary substances a compound as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a disorder in which pathologically elevated PARP activities occur, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 to a mammal suffering from said disorder.

12. (Currently Amended) The use of compounds of the formula I The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerative disease or involves neuronal damage.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive

bleeding.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is stroke or craniocerebral trauma.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is Alzheimer's disease and or Huntington's disease.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage due to ischemia.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is epilepsy.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy or damage resulting after kidney transplants.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the heart after cardiac ischemia.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a ~~microinfarcts~~ microinfarct.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is under vascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an acute myocardial infarct ~~and or~~ damage during an after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a tumor or metastasis thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is sepsis of multi-organ failure.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an immunological disease.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is diabetes mellitus.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)